



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

John McMillan
Commissioner

The Hon. Julius Genachowski
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

June 13, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, I respectfully request that the FCC moves to grant AT&T's request to merge with T-Mobile, an issue under review in the FCC's 11-65 docket.

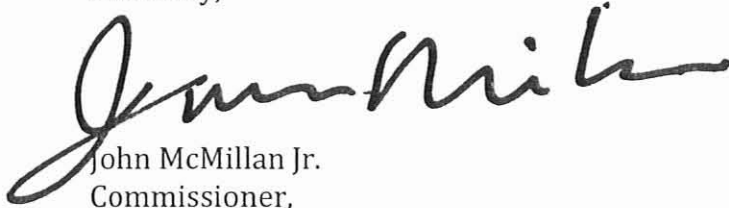
Alabama, like many states, has suffered during the recent economic downturn. In rural parts of our state, this is especially true. For many years, these areas have produced thousands of jobs in our agriculture industry; now, those jobs are slipping away. The truth is simple: When agriculture does well, Alabama does well. But without a healthy agriculture industry, Alabama will suffer.

As Commissioner, I support a number of mechanisms for reviving and sustaining Alabama's agricultural community, including tax incentives and workforce training. But first and foremost, I am committed to increasing demand for Alabama-made and Alabama-grown products in both local markets and in markets around the country. In this endeavor, the need for fast, reliable wireless broadband access is paramount.

While former Alabama Governor Bob Riley's broadband initiative has allowed some rural Alabama communities to connect with consumers throughout the world, I would like to see still more of our rural, underserved areas gain access. The more Alabama farmers and suppliers we have connected to the Internet, the more opportunities we have to buy and sell Alabama agriculture products online. In that way, we allow these hard-working men and women to provide for themselves and, in turn, for our state.

For the sake of rural Alabama's widespread commercial exposure and online marketing power, please support the pending merger. Broadband service like what AT&T/T-Mobile can provide is a vital tool for allowing Alabama's agricultural community to pull itself out of recession and regain the economic success of past years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McMillan Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John McMillan Jr.
Commissioner,
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn